

Malden Historic District
(4212 Fallam Drive)
Malden
Kanawha County
West Virginia

HABS No. WV-210-39

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REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Architectural and Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20243

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

MALDEN HISTORIC DISTRICT, 4212 FALLAM DRIVE HABS No. WV-210-39

Location: 4212 Fallam Drive, Malden, Kanawha County, West Virginia
(Within the boundaries of the Malden Historic District)

Present Owner
and Occupant: Mrs. N. B. (Virginia) Oakes

Present Use: Dwelling

Significance: The most imposing of the houses built at the river's edge in Malden, this representative example of the relatively large late Federal brick side-hall-plan type was built in 1845 and makes a major contribution to the Malden Historic District.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1845.
2. Architect: The house, of standard design, has been attributed to its first owner and occupant, Levi Welch.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The tract was originally the property of David Ruffner and his wife Ann. It was acquired by Dickinson, Armstrong and Company, a tontine, and went to the sole survivor of the partnership, Levi Welch, on September 1, 1844. Welch built or caused to be built a brick residence on Lot #8 and, beside it on Lot #9, a large stone general store. In 1878 the house and neighboring store were sold to Anastasia Hubbard. Mrs. Hubbard conveyed the property in 1881 to Lucy P. Oakes, grandmother of N. B. Oakes, owner until his death in 1978. Oakes willed the house to his widow, Virginia Oakes, the present owner and occupant.
4. Alterations and additions: A side porch between the main block and the ell has been removed. A modern kitchen and bathroom have been built as a one-story addition at the end of the ell. Modern heating and lighting have been installed.

B. Historical Context:

Levi Welch owned and operated the local general store and engaged in salt production. He was a wealthy businessman when he died in the cholera epidemic of 1849. The Hubbards, and later the Oakes family, prospered as retail merchants in the general store next door to the house.

Prepared by Donna Sue White, Historian
Historic American Buildings Survey Team
June 1979

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This two-story brick dwelling with roof ridge parallel to the street has a two-story rear ell and side hall plan. A one-story porch spans the front. Basically late Federal in style, with six-over-six-light sash and a rectangular entrance with transom and sidelights, the house has bracketed eaves of moderate projection.
2. Condition of fabric: Well maintained.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: This building is approximately 34'-6" in width and 87'-0" in depth. The house consists of a two-story front block to which a narrower two-story block has been attached at the rear. To the rear of this two-story ell, a one-story addition has been made. Thus the plan has a two-story ell-shaped portion on which the one-story addition creates a second ell shape.
2. Foundations: Foundations are of cut stone laid continuously except at the front porch, where stone and brick piers are used.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Walls are of red brick set in light gray mortar.
4. Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc.: A three-bay one-story porch occurs on the front. Its shed roof, almost horizontal in slope, is supported by rectangular wooden posts and pilasters, the central portions of which have chamfered edges.
5. Chimneys: The house has three chimneys. Two are located at the south end of the front block, the third being located at the east end of the two-story rear addition. None of the three is expressed on the exterior walls.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: All doors are wooden panel doors except for one glazed door located on the east wall of the front block at the second floor level. The principal (west) entrance consists of a single door flanked by side lights and having a transom of eleven rectangular lights.

- b. Windows and shutters: Windows are generally double-hung six-over-six wooden sash units. However, three two-over-two units occur on the two-story ell and three wooden awning units of two panels each occur on the one-story addition. Single-panel awning units occurs at two locations. Louvered shutters occur only at the west windows.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The principal roof is a simple gabled structure to which is attached a second such roof for the two-story ell. A third gabled roof covers the one-story addition. These roofs are covered with green asphalt shingles.
- b. Cornice, eaves: Eaves with enclosed soffits occur at all walls. Cornice returns and raking cornices occur on the gable ends of the two-story blocks. The two-story blocks also have decorative wooden brackets supporting the eaves. Cornices are embellished by simple linear moldings consisting of cyma recta and cavetto shapes.

C. Site:

- 1. General setting: The building faces west onto Fallam Drive, fronting on the Kanawha River beyond. A flower garden, carefully tended but not planned with great exactitude, is located in the exterior spaced formed by the ell-shaped house plan.
- 2. Outbuildings: Southeast of the house, a one-story garage and a two-story building formerly used as slave quarters occur. The latter straddles the property line and is only partly owned by the current owner of the house. Northeast of the house, a one-story storage shed occurs.

Prepared by James Murray Howard
Project Supervisor
Historic American Buildings Survey
August 1979

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

1. Bibliography:

- a. Deed Book, Kanawha County Courthouse Records, Deed Book 36, at page 169.

Woods, Ruth Dayton. Pioneers and Their Homes on Upper Kanawha. Charleston, West Virginia: West Virginia Publishing Co., 1947.

b. Interviews:

Mrs. N. B. (Virginia) Oakes, 4212 Fallam Drive, Malden, West Virginia. (Present owner of the house.)

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) with funding from the West Virginia Department of Culture and History. The recording was completed under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, Principal Architect of HABS, in the HABS field office in Charleston, West Virginia. Recording was carried out during the summer of 1979 by James Murray Howard (University of Illinois), Project Supervisor; Donna White, Project Historian; and Student Architects James Barrett Garrison (Carnegie-Mellon University) and Keith Edward Soto (University of Florida). The photographs were taken by Walter Smalling, Jr., Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service Photographer.